

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments in the outstanding Office Action have been carefully considered and responded to in the above-amended claim program. For the following reasons the pending claims are all allowable over the prior art of record alone or in combination.

The §112 first paragraph rejections of claims 19-21 and 23 (Section 3 of Office Action) have no basis in fact, are improper and should be withdrawn. The figures and text of the specification support claims 19-21 and 23.

Fig. 2 of the present application illustrates a detector 24 displaced from the exit indicating device 10. (See pg 1, paragraph 11 of respective published application 2005/0128066 A1). In Fig. 3 detectors 50-1...-4 are illustrated displaced from exit indicator 40-1. Detectors 50-7...-m are illustrated displaced from respective fire exit indicators 40-3...-n. (See pg 2 paragraphs 18-19 of '066 published application). For at least the above reasons claim 19 is properly supported.

The claimed separate housings of the detectors of claims 20, 21 and 23 are supported by Figs. 2, 3 and associated text. In Fig. 2 detector 24 is coupled to a separate indicator device 10. Detector 24 and indicator 10 have separate housings. Fig. 3 illustrates a plurality of separate detectors 50-1...-4 coupled to a separate exit indicator 40-1. Detectors 50-5, -6 are illustrated coupled to separate indicators 40-2. Detectors 40-7...-n are each coupled to separate, displaced indicators 40-3...-m. Hence in all instances in Figs. 2, 3 the detectors are illustrated with housings separate from the housings of respective exit indicators. Thus, for at least the above reasons, claims 20, 21, 23 all comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner referred to rejecting claims 20-24 as anticipated by Ellul Jr. (Section 5 Office Action). However, only claim 22 was discussed as being anticipated. To the extent that claims 20, 21, 23, 24 are allegedly anticipated, no proper explanation was provided as to why there is anticipation of claims 20, 21, 23 and 24. As to claims

20, 21, 23 and 24 there are no proper outstanding anticipation rejections. The anticipation rejection of claim 22 has failed to address the specific wording of claim 22.

As required by claim 22:

"some of the detectors are coupled to at least a first output module, others are coupled to at least a second output module" (claim 22, emphasis ours)

As admitted by the Examiner on page 6, Office Action:

"Ellul discloses alarms 14...and each have a smoke detector 12, coupled using ultrasonic communication, and a thermistor 56" (emphasis ours)

It is quite clear, and the Examiner is correct, each alarm unit 14 of Ellul Jr. has only one thermistor 56. This is not the claimed structure, as quoted above, that includes multiple detectors "coupled to at least a first output module" as well as multiple detectors "coupled to at least a second output module". Thus, Ellul Jr. can not anticipate claim 22.

Ellul Jr. does not make claim 24 obvious for at least the above reasons. In addition, a proper obviousness rejection must include an identification of a suggestion or teaching which would motivate one of skill in the art to modify Ellul Jr. so as to make the respective claimed structure obvious. No such suggestion or motivation has been identified in the rejection of claim 24. The reference to "ultrasonic communication" is not sufficient. Ultrasonic communication in Ellul Jr. is between detector 12 and output device 14. It has no relationship at all to the wired connection between thermistor 56 and output device 14. Claim 24 is allowable for at least the above reasons.

No explanation has been provided as to why one of skill in the art would be motivated to modify Ellul Jr. so as to make claim 21 (now incorporated into claim 20) obvious. Claim 21, (now claim 20) requires that:

"alarm indicating outputs of members of the plurality are coupled to the control port to disable the device" (Emphasis ours)

Ellul Jr. teaches coupling a single thermistor 56 to a respective remote alarm 14. This structure is unlike amended claim 20. No teaching or suggestion has been identified in the rejection of claim 21, now amended claim 20, which would motivate one of skill in the art to modify Ellul Jr. so as to make amended claim 20 obvious. In fact Ellul Jr. teaches away from the claimed structure with its focus on locating thermistor 56 in or adjacent to housing 40 of remote alarm 14:

"According to a unique feature of the present invention, a temperature sensing means is provided for sensing the ambient temperature of a wall or other surface immediately adjacent the alarm housing 40, such as the wall or surface on which the alarm housing 40 is mounted, or the ambient temperature of ht air immediately surrounding the housing 40.

In one embodiment, the temperature sensing means includes a thermistor or probe 56 which is connected by a conductor 58 to a temperature controller or comparison circuit within the housing 40." (Col. 5, Ins 13-27 of Ellul '839)

Amended claim 20, for at least the above reasons is allowable. Claim 23 is also allowable for at least the above reasons.

The rejection of claims 5-9 as anticipated is defective.

Each of those claims requires:

"a first plurality of ambient condition detectors coupled by a medium to first control circuits"

Ellul Jr.'s detectors 12 are all independent, stand alone units as shown in Fig. 2 thereof. None of those detectors are "coupled by a medium to first control circuits" as claimed. The Examiner's reference to "Ellul's plurality of smoke detectors 12 with inherent control circuitry" (pg 3 Office Action) does not correspond to the claimed structure as in Ellul Jr. each detector 12 is connected separately to local transmission circuits 22, 23, 26, 28. In claims 5-9 the "plurality" is "coupled by a medium to first

control circuits". The rejection is based on Ellul's structure where each detector 12 has its own internal control circuits which is unlike the claimed structure, see Fig. 2 thereof.

In addition, each of the units 14 is separate. They do not correspond to the claimed "coupled by a second medium to second control circuits" as each unit 14 has its own separate wiring to its control circuits, see Fig. 3. Single units 14 having internal control do not correspond to "a plurality of...output devices coupled by a second medium to second control circuits" as claimed.

For at least the above reasons, claims 5-9 are not anticipated. Claim 7 adds to claim 5:

"first and second control circuits are coupled together"

In rejecting claim 7 the Examiner asserted that:

"smoke detectors 12 and alarms 14 are coupled through ultrasonic communication" (pg 4 Office Action)

Those elements do not correspond to the "first control circuits" and "second control circuits" as claimed for the reasons set forth above. Each detector 12 and alarm unit 14 has its own internal control circuits. The internal communications to each of detectors 12 are multiple different mediums. The same is true for alarm units 14.

Claim 8 is also allowable for the above reasons.

In rejecting claims 10, 15, 17 and 18 as anticipated the Examiner argued that:

"temperature sensing means 60 determines when the temperature of the alarm unit 14, which indicates an exit path" (pg 5 Office Action)

Ellul Jr. does not disclose:

"providing spaced apart indicia along at least one exit path from the region" (claims 10-18)

Ellul Jr. does not refer to exit paths. He teaches the use of a single remote alarm unit 14 per exit. He states:

"It will be understood that multiple alarms 14 may be employed in a single room, each identifying a different exit from the room. This

increases the safety for the occupant(s) of the room since multiple exits are indicated. Each of the alarms 14 will be keyed to the same ultrasonic frequency of the transmitter 28 in the alarm circuit of the smoke detector 12 so as to be activated at the same time." (Col. 6, Ins 19-26 Ellul '839; emphasis added)

Hence for at least the above reasons none of claims 10-15 and 17, 18 are anticipated.

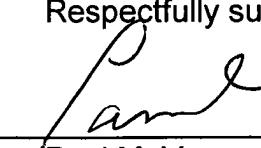
Further claims 17, 28 require:

"at least one illuminating at least one exit path from the region, or, audibly designating at least one exit path from the region"

As described above Ellul Jr. does not disclose path illumination or audible path identification. He focuses only on exit illumination, not on a path to the exit as claimed. Hence, for at least the above reasons none of claims 10-15, 17, 18 are anticipated by Ellul Jr.

For at least the above reasons the pending claims are allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicant's attorney will shortly contact the Examiner for the purpose of scheduling a telephone interview to discuss the outstanding Office Action.

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